

Appln. No. 09/975,382  
Amdt. dated November 29, 2005  
Reply to Office Action dated October 19, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 9-13, 15, 17 and 19 as follows.  
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method of coding a  
multi-media object using an encoder which is receivable of the  
multi-media object from an input unit or object generation unit  
and generates a bit-stream which is subsequently reproducible by  
5 a reproduction unit or decoder to obtain the multi-media object,  
the method comprising:

coding the object to obtain a bit-stream having multiple  
coded parts, each coded part including a header and a data part,  
generating quality information which indicates ~~a quality~~  
10 distortion of the object when the bit-stream is truncated during  
decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts  
of the bit-stream, and  
adding the quality information [[to]] into the headers of  
the coded parts of the bit-stream such that the quality  
15 information is situated throughout the bit-stream.

Claim 2 (Original). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein

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the coding step is a scalable coding step to obtain a scalable bit-stream.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the quality information relates to an object reproduction quality.

Claim 4 (Original). A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the quality information is based on a signal to noise ratio value.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the quality information is in the form of quality tags which are added at given locations in the bit-stream, the quality tags indicating ~~a quality~~ distortion of  
5 the object when the bit-stream is truncated just after (or alternatively just before) the given location in the bit-stream.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the quality information is incorporated in existing fields of a given scalable coding standard.

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Claim 7 (Original). A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the scalable bit-stream includes several layers and wherein respective layers include respective quality information.

Claim 8 (Original). A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bit-stream is encrypted and the quality information is unencrypted.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A method of controlling at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added ~~[[to]]~~ into headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of  
5 the coded parts, the quality information indicating ~~a quality~~ distortion of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the method comprising:

receiving the at least one bit-stream,  
extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream,

transcoding or truncating the at least one bit-stream in the  
10 case a desired combination of bit-rate and ~~quality~~ distortion of the at least one bit-stream differs from a current combination of bit-rate and ~~quality~~ distortion of the at least one received

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bit-stream,

providing the at least one bit-stream at the desired  
15 combination of bit-rate and quality distortion, and  
processing the at least one bit-stream in consideration of  
the quality information obtained from the header of one or more  
coded parts of the bit-stream near the truncation point.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). A method of transmitting at  
least one multi-media object using a transmitter which generates  
and transmits a bit-stream which is subsequently reproducible by  
a reproduction unit or decoder to obtain the multi-media object,  
5 the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

coding the object to obtain the bit-stream having multiple  
coded parts, each coded part including a header and a data part,  
generating quality information which indicates ~~a quality~~  
distortion of the object when the bit-stream is truncated during  
10 decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts  
of the bit-stream,

adding the quality information ~~[[to]]~~ into the headers of  
the coded parts of the bit-stream such that the quality  
information is situated throughout the bit-stream, and  
15 transmitting the bit-stream in which the quality information

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has been added.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). A method of receiving at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added ~~[[to]]~~ into headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts, the quality information indicating ~~a quality~~ distortion of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the method comprising:

extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream,

10 transcoding or truncating the at least one bit-stream in the case a desired combination of bit-rate and ~~quality~~ distortion of the at least one bit-stream differs from a current combination of bit-rate and ~~quality~~ distortion of the at least one received bit-stream,

15 providing the at least one bit-stream at the desired combination of bit-rate and ~~quality~~ distortion,

decoding the at least one bit-stream at the desired combination of bit-rate and ~~quality~~ distortion, and

20 processing the at least one bit-stream in consideration of the quality information obtained from the header of one or more

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coded parts of the bit-stream near the truncation point.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). A method of receiving at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added ~~[[to]]~~ into headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts and enabling the multi-media object to be reproduced by a reproduction unit, the quality information indicating ~~a quality~~ distortion of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

10 extracting the quality information from the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream;

decoding the bit-stream to obtain a decoded multi-media object; and

15 processing the multi-media object in dependence on the extracted quality information obtained from the header of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream whereby the processed multi-media object is reproducible by the reproduction unit.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). A device for coding a multi-media object, the device comprising:

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means for coding the object to obtain a bit-stream having multiple coded parts, each coded part including a header and a data part,

means for generating quality information which indicates ~~a~~ quality distortion of the object when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding thereof in relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the bit-stream, and

means for adding the quality information ~~[[to]]~~ into the headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream such that the quality information is situated throughout the bit-stream.

Claim 14 (Original). A transmitter comprising a device as claimed in claim 13.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). A controller for controlling at least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has been added ~~[[to]]~~ into headers of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of the coded parts, the quality information indicating ~~a~~ quality distortion of the object in relation to a given position in (or a given part of) the bit-stream, the controller comprising:

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means for receiving the at least one bit-stream,

10 means for extracting the quality information from the  
headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream,

means for truncating the at least one bit-stream in the case  
a desired combination of bit-rate and ~~quality~~ distortion of the  
at least one bit-stream differs from a current combination of  
15 bit-rate and ~~quality~~ distortion of the at least one received  
bit-stream,

means for providing the at least one bit-stream at the  
desired combination of bit-rate and ~~quality~~ distortion, and

means for processing the at least one bit-stream in  
20 consideration of the quality information obtained from the header  
of one or more coded parts of the bit-stream near the truncation  
point.

Claim 16 (Original). A receiver comprising a controller as  
claimed in claim 15.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended). A receiver for receiving at  
least one bit-stream representing a multi-media object in which  
bit-stream quality information has been added [[to]] into headers  
of coded parts of the bit-stream situated before data parts of



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5 the coded parts, the quality information indicating a ~~quality~~  
distortion of the object in relation to a given position in (or a  
given part of) the bit-stream, the receiver comprising:

means for extracting the quality information from the  
headers of the coded parts of the bit-stream;

10 means for decoding the bit-stream to obtain a decoded  
multi-media object; and

means for processing the multi-media object in dependence on  
the extracted quality information obtained from the header of one  
or more coded parts of the bit-stream.

Claim 18 (Original). A multiplexer or network node  
comprising a controller as claimed in claim 15.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). A bit-stream representing a  
multi-media object in which bit-stream quality information has  
been added, the bit-stream having multiple coded parts generated  
and transmitted by a transmitter and subsequently processable to  
5 enable reproduction of the multi-media object by a reproduction  
unit, each coded part having a header and a data part, the  
quality information indicating a ~~quality~~ distortion of the object  
when the bit-stream is truncated during decoding thereof in

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relation to the data parts of the coded parts of the bit-stream,  
10 the quality information being present in the header of the coded  
parts of the bit-stream such that the quality information is  
situated throughout the bit-stream.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented). A storage medium on which  
a bit-stream as claimed in claim 19 has been stored, the storage  
medium being arranged to receive the bit-stream from the  
transmitter and being subsequently couplable to the reproduction  
5 unit to enable transmission of the bit-stream from the storage  
medium to the reproduction unit for reproduction thereby.